



Martin O'Malley, Governor
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TO: Sportfish Advisory Commission
Tidal Fish Advisory Commission

Department action is needed to comply with Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fisheries Management plan for American Shad and River Herring.

In May 2009, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) approved Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for American Shad and River Herring. Amendment 2 requires the Atlantic states to close all in-state river herring fisheries beginning January 2012, however, states have the option to request an exemption from this mandate by developing a sustainable fishery plan for review and approval by ASMFC. States seeking an exemption must submit this plan by July 2010, documenting and justifying that their commercial and recreational fisheries do not diminish the potential future stock reproduction and recruitment of river herring.

Fisheries Service will be presenting a stock status overview and characterization of the fisheries to the Sport and Tidal Fisheries Commissions and will input on possible options for consideration in Maryland in order to comply with Amendment 2. The following options are being considered

Commercial Fishery:

- Moratorium – Full closure of the river herring fishery
- *Limited Directed Harvest – Includes monitoring/permitting
- *Limited Bycatch – Daily catch limits and equal catch of other species

Recreational Fisheries:

- Moratorium – Full closure of the river herring fishery
- *Limited Harvest – Includes daily creel and gear limitations

* Please Note: Options identified with an asterisk (*) are contingent upon ASMFC approval of a fishery management plan classifying Maryland's commercial and/or recreational fisheries as "sustainable" at the proposed harvest levels.